

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 /079 W

-----002064 242130Z /61

R 232122Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4424

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGATION OF BRUTALITY IN
MANAGUA JAIL

REF: MANAGUA A-108, SEPT 22, 1977

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FSLN LETTER WHICH, IN ADDITION
TO PROPAGANDISTIC DIATRIBE AGAINST SOMOZA REGIME, DETAILS A NUMBER
OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, SOME OF THEM
VERY RECENT. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED INDEPENDENT INFORMATION WHICH
TENDS TO SUBSTANTIATE AT LEAST ONE OF THE ALLEGATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. REFAIR ANALYZES AND COMMENTS ON LETTER WHICH MEMBERS OF THE
SANDINIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FSLN) GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION
SMUGGLED OUT OF A LOCAL JAIL AND WHICH HAS COME INTO EMBASY'S
POSSESSION. LETTER IS LARGELY PROPAGANDISTIC, ANTI-SOMOZA
DIATRIBE BUT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF UNJUSTIFIED AND PRO-
LONGED DETENTION, TORTURE AND MURDER, ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THE
GUARDIA NACIONAL. SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE REPETITIONS OF
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CHARGES WHICH FSLN HAS MADE TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN A SMILIAR
LETTER LAST MAY. OTHERS INVOLVE INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED OVER A
YEAR AGO. STILL OTHERS RELATE TO MORE RECENT EVENTS.

2. ONE OF ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN LATEST FSLN LETTER PERTAINS TO
ONE ASUNCION NUNEZ CRUZ FROM JINOPE, HONDURAS. LETTER CLAIMS THAT
NUNEZ WAS ARRESTED IN MATAGALPA DEPARTMENT IN OCTOBER 1976, WAS

SUBJECTED TO REPEATED AND SEVERE TORTURES BY THE GUARDIA, AND IS NOW HELD IN POLITICAL PRISONERS' SECTION OF MANAGUA'S CENTRAL JAIL. AT THE TIME OF PREPARATION OF REPAIR, EMBASSY WAS NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS IN NUNEZ CASE SINCE HIS NAME WAS UNKNOWN TO US. EMBASSY NOW HAS INFORMATION WHICH TENDS TO CORROBORATE AT LEAST PART OF THE FSLN'S ALLEGATION OF BRUTALITY PERPETRATED ON NUNEZ.

3. FSLN LETTER ALLEGES, INTER ALIA, THAT ON JULY 22, 1977, NUNEZ WAS TAKEN TO THE JAIL COMMANDANT'S OFFICE WHERE FIVE OR SIX GUARDIA PERSONNEL BEAT HIM, AND THAT THIS BEATING CAME AFTER NUNEZ HAD ATTEMPTED TO PLEAD (APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFULLY) HIS INNOCENCE OF ANY WRONG-DOING TO A VISITING DELEGATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC).

4. AN INDEPENDENT EMBASSY SOURCE WITHIN THE JAIL HAS VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFFS THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE FREQUENTLY SUBJECTED TO SEVERE BEATINGS. SOURCE MENTIONED A SPECIFIC INCIDENT WHICH HE WITNESSED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN A PRISONER DRAGGED FROM CELL BLOCK BY FIVE GUARDIA SOLDIERS. LATER THAT EVENING, SOURCE SAW THAT PRISONER RETURNED TO CELL, BEATEN TO A PULP. SOURCE DID NOT SEE BEATING ADMINISTERED BUT HEARD THE PRISONER SCREAMING. OTHER PRISONERS TOLD SOURCE THAT THE BEATEN PRISONER WAS A HONDURAN WHOSE FAMILY HAD THREATENED TO APPEAL TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON HIS BEHALF. THEY TOLD SOURCE THAT THE BEATING WAS ADMINISTERED AS A WARNING TO THE VICTIM AND HIS FAMILY

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NOT TO APPROACH AMNESTY.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT IN THE TWO VERSIONS OF WHAT APPEAR TO BE THE SAME INCIDENT TO CONCLUDE THAT GUARDIA PERSONNEL PROBABLY DID BEAT NUNEZ SEVERELY IN LATE JULY. EMBASSY HAS HEARD, MOREOVER, FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT PRISONERS IN MANAGUA'S CENTRAL JAIL ARE FREQUENTLY TAKEN OUT OF THEIR CELLS AT NIGHT AND ARE SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL ABUSE. SUCH ABUSES ARE REPORTEDLY AS RECENT AS LAST WEEK.

5. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT ON OTHER ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN FSLN LETTER AS FURTHER DATA SUBSTANTIATING OR CONTRADICTING THOSE CHARGES BECOME AVAILABLE. EMBASSY WILL ALSO SEEK TO LEARN WHETHER LIFTING OF STATE OF SIEGE ON SEPTEMBER 19 WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON TREATMENT REPORTEDLY ACCORDED PRISONERS IN POLITICAL CELL BLOCK OF MANAGUA'S CENTRAL JAIL.

6. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REQUESTED GUARDIA NACIONAL FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF NENEZ AND SOME OTHER PRISONERS MENTIONED IN FSLN LETTER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PENAL INSTITUTIONS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAGU04442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770348-1283
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From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANAGUA A-108
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1155664
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGATION OF BRUTALITY IN MANAGUA JAIL
TAGS: PINR, PINS, SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/36fbcc3e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009